

WINGSPREAD

Presidential parting



President George W. Bush waves goodbye to the people in attendance on the Randolph flightline early Sunday afternoon before departing on Air Force One. The President landed here on his Marine One helicopter earlier in the day and drove to Fort Sam Houston in his motorcade where he visited combat-wounded troops at Brooke Army Medical Center and presented some Purple Heart medals. This was the President's second visit to Randolph in a little over three months. He stayed the night Sept. 24 to monitor the military's response to Hurricane Rita. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

Wing to get new leader

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander will step up to take charge of the wing during a change of command ceremony Jan. 20.

Col. Richard Clark takes command from Col. John Hesterman at a 2 p.m. ceremony in Washington Circle.

In case of bad weather, the ceremony will take place in Hangar 4.

After being nominated by President George Bush for promotion to brigadier general Nov. 4, Colonel Hesterman received word late in the year he was being reassigned as the special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations at Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

He has commanded the 12th FTW since May 2004.

Colonel Clark has served in the position of 12th FTW vice wing commander since June 2005.

Prior to his assignment here, Colonel Clark completed a yearlong program at the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., to earn his master's degree in national security studies. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours of flying time primarily in the B-1, as well as the EC-135, KC-135 and T-38.

Main gate reopens today

Weekday morning commuters have four gates to choose from when arriving at Randolph

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The gates to Randolph will return to their normal pre-construction operating schedules when the main gate reopens today at 9 a.m.

That means starting Monday motorists will have four gates to choose from to enter the base during their weekday morning commutes.

"We're excited to finally be able to use the main gate and Harmon Drive again as the primary access road for Randolph," said Col. John Hesterman, 12th Flying Training Wing commander. "We have appreciated everyone's patience and cooperation throughout this process, and we again thank those units that voluntarily went to staggered reporting times to help ease the traffic congestion at the gates."

When the main gate opens, it will remain open around the clock, seven days a week. Three inbound lanes will feed traffic through the gatehouse from FM 78 before traffic merges into two lanes on Harmon

Gate Hours

Effective today at 9 a.m.

Gate	Weekdays	Weekends/Holidays
Main	24 hours	24 hours
West	6 a.m. to 10 p.m.	9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
East	6-8 a.m. inbound only	Closed
South	6 a.m. to 6 p.m. 6-8:30 a.m. inbound only	Closed

Drive. Two Harmon Drive outbound lanes expand into four lanes outside the gate to feed traffic onto Pat Booker Road and east and west onto FM 78, according to security forces officials.

The west gate, which is now open 24 hours a day, will operate weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The east gate will return to its weekday inbound-only traffic flow from 6-8 a.m. The east gate will not be open for outbound traffic in the afternoon, and the

gate will be closed on weekends and holidays.

The south gate will continue to follow its current operating schedule. It is open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with inbound-only traffic from 6-8:30 a.m. The south gate is closed on weekends and holidays.

The high school gate will remain closed during duty hours, but will be open for athletic events and other functions some late afternoons and evenings. When

See **Main gate** on page 4

12th Flying Training Wing Training Status												
Pilot Instructor Training <div>As of Monday</div>			Navigator, EWO Students				Wing Flying Hour Program					
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS			Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual	
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO		CSO		Graduate EWO	T-1A	2619.0	2446.9	10,725	
99th FTS	-2.0	-0.5	USAF	234	OPS	22	International	0	T-6A	4216.0	3969.3	17,196
558th FTS	-23.0	-0.1	Navy	39	Advanced EW	23	EW Course	0	T-37B	1179.0	1169.7	5,796
559th FTS	-7.5	-0.9	International	0	Integration	25	Intro to EW	0	T-38C	2254.1	2301.6	9,937
560th FTS	-1.7	0.7	Total in Training	273		70		0	T-43	1000.0	935.5	3,982
Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.			Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.					The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.				

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better. In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency Contact Numbers	
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
Response Coordinator	652-8787
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

“**PROTECT
YOUR
WINGMAN**”

DUI...
It's a crime
not a mistake

Team Randolph's
last DUI was
August 2, 2005

Let's add 'family' to service before self

By Master Sgt. Lee Roberts
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Recently I had the privilege of meeting with Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, Air Education and Training Command's Command Chief Master Sergeant, upon my graduation from the Senior NCO Academy.

The chief passed on a message from Gen. William Looney, AETC commander... simply, "It's your duty to take care of your families."

While meeting with Chief Ellison, he told of when, early in his career, he attended an event at his daughter's second grade school. Although he didn't want to go, he found himself sitting next to another child who didn't have a parent in attendance.

Years later when his daughter graduated from high school, she gave a speech and recalled that day when the chief was the only dad who showed up. She also stressed how he showed compassion for the other child.

The impression Chief Ellison made on his daughter was significant. He said at that moment he realized how important families are. The chief said when Airmen have to choose between an Air Force function and a child's school event, they better consider the long-term effect of the choice.

Long after Air Force members leave the service, the family remembers these choices, Chief Ellison stressed.

It's ironic the day after I returned

home from the Senior NCO Academy my daughter wanted me to attend her preschool function where my wife and I were encouraged to spend time with our daughter putting icing and sprinkles on cookies.

I was one of the few dads who showed up. My wife and I sat with our daughter and a little boy whose parents had not shown up. I chatted with the little boy and soon thereafter his mother arrived.

Still he continued to give me his attention. He sat on my lap and I then asked him if his dad was going to show up. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "He died." He then pointed to heaven and added, "He's up there."

I changed the subject, but soon after I heard his mother telling my wife that his dad was killed in Iraq. My wife had to fight back the tears and I couldn't help but get choked up myself because this little boy will never again have "family time" with his daddy.

I immediately began thinking of how I needed to spend more time with my family. Most Airmen know about "service before self." It is the Air Force Core Value that says "professional duties take precedence over personal desires." However, few Airmen, including myself, are good at fitting their families into this equation.

Airmen sometimes have to spend valuable time away from work taking care of families, which can be a detriment to the mission. Yet, doesn't

the mission also suffer when Airmen aren't allowed to tend to family issues?

I believe the pendulum swings both ways when it comes to fitting in "family" into the "professional duty" or the "personal desire" categories of the "service before self" core value. But regardless of which way it swings, I'm convinced it's the right thing for supervisors to allow their people to balance official duties and time spent with their families. After all, families significantly impact "service" because none of the men and women in blue could adequately serve without the support of their loved ones.

I think General Looney is right when he says it's our duty to take care of our families. So please don't mistake that "service before self" means it is OK to forget about your duty to your family and Air Force family.

We all need to take care of our families. Supervisors; you also need to take care of your Air Force family. Allow your people to balance mission requirements with family. The mission will benefit in the long run.

I can't forget the little boy pointing to his daddy in heaven. His innocent gesture helped me recognize the importance of family and made me want to be there for my wife and children to cherish every moment I spend with them.

I think perhaps "service and family before self" would make a better Air Force Core Value.

Leadership starts with person in mirror

By Maj. Gen. Scott Gray
Air Mobility Warfare Center commander

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. (AFPN) – As a general officer, I am frequently in front of audiences talking about leadership. One of my favorite groups to address is an Airman Leadership School class.

In discussions with them, I always ask two questions: First, has anyone ever worked for a bad boss or leader? Unfortunately, 75 percent or more of the hands reach for the sky. I then ask for examples of what made these leaders bad.

The answers are normally the same: Not involved with his or her subordinates; not concerned about me or my training; is concerned only with his or her advancement; doesn't support the boss or the mission; is a tyrant to work for; harasses people or condones it on and off duty; sets low standards, allowing the shop to skate by.

You get my drift, and you may have met some of these leaders yourself.

The second leadership question is: Have any of you worked for great leaders, and what made them great?

Sadly, fewer than 25 percent of the hands go up. Their examples are exactly what you would expect in our Air Force leaders: Integrity; concerned with my development and family; sets the example on and off duty; sets high standards; takes no credit but takes all of the blame; loves his job, his life and his family; and makes work fun.

If the Air Force is going to excel and get the most out of our people, we must reverse the negative leadership examples. Our people are our most important asset. We need to treat them as such.

I'm challenging all leaders and supervisors to look in the mirror and reflect on our own strengths and weaknesses, then set out to improve ourselves, so our people can realize their full potential.

It is the best investment we can make for our greatest asset – our Airmen. Your Airmen need you to be great.

As for me, I'm heading to the mirror.

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Lt. Col. Dwayne Sellers
12th Contracting Squadron

Today
Gary Teer
Air Education and Training Command

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

WINGSPREAD

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Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Lieutenants facing force shaping boards have civilian option

For lieutenants facing the force shaping board and contemplating the possibility of separating from the Air Force, employment options can seem overwhelming and limitless.

The members of the 12th Flying Training Civilian Personnel Office and the Family Support Center are ready to help military members make the transition to government civilian employment.

"The young men and women being affected by this force shaping initiative bring a wealth of Air Force experience and knowledge with them when they return as a civilian employee," said Brenda McCain, Randolph civilian personnel officer. "We are here to assist them in any way we can."

People can apply for a civilian position up to 120 days before separation, she said.

"Normally, it takes between 60 to 90 days to receive notification after you have applied for a civilian position and, if selected, about 30 to 45 days until an applicant can start working," Ms. McCain said.

Military time counts toward work experience and may be used for leave accrual or retirement. People who recently separated or retired may be eligible for veteran's preference when applying for a civilian position. Point values range from five points for veterans discharged with an honorable or general discharge who served during a war to 10 points for eligible disabled veterans.

For a detailed listing of veteran's preferences, people can visit the veteran's preference advisor online at www.dol.gov/elaws/vetspref.htm. Disabled veteran's counseling is also available from AMVETS.

"The young men and women being affected by this force shaping initiative bring a wealth of Air Force experience and knowledge with them when they return as a civilian employee. We are here to assist them in any way we can."

Brenda McCain

Randolph civilian personnel officer

Applying for a civilian position can be divided into three steps: submit a resumé, search job postings and self-nominate. The three S's are key in the job-hunting process, according to the Air Force Personnel Center Web site.

People can submit resúmes to the AFPC through the online resumé writer, via e-mail or through regular mail. Those submitted through the resumé writer tool are the preferred method, according to AFPC's Civilian Employment Application Guide job kit and can be accessed at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. This method allows users to post a resumé and have it processed into the AFPC system within 24 hours. It also allows users to edit and review a resumé at any time. Resúmes are active in the system for one year.

Resúmes that are e-mailed or mailed can take up to five days to process into the AFPC system. Resúmes can be e-mailed to ext.resumé@randolph.af.mil for all external applicants, who are not currently working in a civilian position.

"Applicant information" must be in the subject line of the e-mail and resúmes should not be sent as an attachment. Applicants cannot review, print or update their resumé when using this method.

The next step in the process is to search for a job. Federal jobs are posted on a variety of Web sites. AFPC links to various Air Force postings and also www.usajob.opm.gov. This site hosts various federal jobs all over the world. AFPC also offers the Civilian Announcement Notification System.

CANS is an e-mail service in which users receive notification of Air Force civilian job openings meeting their specific criteria. Information is stored in the system for up to 180 days and users may use up to 20 criteria combinations.

After finding a job and making sure all supplemental data and a resumé are active in the system, self-nomination is the next step.

There are two ways applicants may self-nominate: online at the AFPC Civilian Employment homepage or over the AF Job Line at (800) 616-3775. Applicants must have their social security number, a personal identification number and the 11-digit job announcement code when self-nominating via the job line on the Web, according to the site.

AFPC officials encourage applicants to be sure to see the self-nomination confirmation before exiting the Web site. If an applicant does not see a confirmation, the self-nomination was

not completed. Applicants should print a copy of the confirmation for future reference.

To check on the status of a self-nomination, applicants can log onto the AFPC Web site or call the job line.

Here are some additional AFPC tips for the self-nomination process:

- Those who want to self-nominate and update a resumé that is currently on file should self-nominate first before updating their resumé because applicants cannot self-nominate while a resumé is being updated.

- External candidates whose resúmes have expired and were submitted through Resumé Writer can access the AFPC Web site and select the Resumé Writer menu option. Click on "update resumé" and make any necessary changes, then click "submit." The system requires 24 hours to refresh before the resumé flows into the AFPC Resumix data system. Once the resumé has entered the system, applicants will be able to self-nominate for vacancies.

Other supporting documents may need to be provided before an official job offer can be made.

"Transcripts, Defense Department Form 214 or Statement of Service, and applicable licenses or certifications should be submitted in a timely fashion as required by the position," Ms. McCain said.

Applicants are also reminded to keep track of the close-out date of a job and to keep that in mind when applying. Also, applicants should be sure to fill out the "knowledge, skills and abilities" section required for some positions.

(1st Lt. Martha Petersante-Gioia, 66th Air Base Wing, contributed to this story)

Military, civilian medals approved for hurricane relief work

Servicemembers and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for U.S. military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

To qualify for the HSM, servicemembers must have provided direct support to immediate relief operations for at least one day in the area of eligibility – east of and including Houston (designated as 96 degrees longitude), Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi – from Aug. 29 to Oct. 13, 2005.

Servicemembers eligible to receive the AFSCM must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the continental United States from Aug. 27, 2005, to Feb. 27, 2006 -- minus the specific area and time-period used to qualify for the HSM.

If a member receives an HSM for Katrina relief operations, he or she cannot receive a second HSM for Rita. The same applies for the AFSCM. However, people who receive the HSM may later qualify for the AFSCM if their direct support does not include the dates and actions used in their qualifications for the HSM.

To qualify for the AFSCM, civilians must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the same area of eligibility and period as the AFSCM.

Eligible Air Force personnel must provide proof of entitlement to the military personnel flight or civilian personnel office. Supporting documentation may consist of assignment orders, temporary duty orders or travel vouchers, a decoration citation, an enlisted or officer performance report

reflecting participation or other official documentation that verifies participation.

Any colonel in a command billet or civilian equivalent can approve the awarding of these medals if supporting documentation is not available.

Once verified, the military or civilian personnel flight will update individual records.



Staff Sgt. Shannon Roman, 12th Medical Group, inprocesses Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Airmen returning from deployment to Southwest Asia as part of hurricane Katrina relief efforts. (Photo by Dan Solis)

For more information, contact the awards and decorations office at 652-3848.

(Courtesy of Air force Print News)



Tech Sgt. Joseph Krawietz and Sharon McDaniel, 12th Flying Training Wing protocol office, raise flags on the new avenue of flags on Harmon Drive Tuesday. Starting at the end of the drive closest to the new main gate, the flags are displayed in the order in which the states entered the Union. The protocol office is responsible for maintaining the flags on the poles that were first given to the base by the local chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

Harmon Drive reopens today

Main gate

Continued from Page 1

the high school gate is open, Perimeter Road gates on both sides of the school on the fence line that surrounds the campus will be closed. People on base who want to attend these after-hours school activities must leave the base and access the high school from the gate on Loop 1604.

Even though the main gate will open for traffic starting today, the contractor will still be completing construction of the visitor reception center, vehicle inspection station and a few other areas, said Dwight Micklethwait, 12th Civil Engineer Division project engineer.

Because the main visitor reception center will not be complete, the 12th Security Forces Squadron will still use the temporary visitor center inside the east gate to issue passes and register vehicles, said Capt. Vanessa Hayes, 12th SFS operations officer. The center will be fenced off from the remainder of the base inside the east gate until the center at the main gate opens in February.

The visitor center is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. To help people



Col. John Hesterman (right of center), 12th Flying Training Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, Army Corps of Engineers, flanked by base and local officials, cut the ribbon Wednesday morning at the new main gate guardhouse to signify completion of the Randolph gate and Harmon Drive construction project. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

get in and out of the east gate to use the center, the temporary traffic light on FM 78 at the east gate will remain in operation until the permanent visitor reception center opens at the main gate, Captain Hayes said.

"We've waited for the day to come when congestion at the east and west gates could be relieved," Mr. Micklethwait said. "That day has arrived and everything else looks like it's coming together on schedule."

In addition to the building construction at the gate, the project that began April 24, 2004, included repaving Harmon Drive and, in the

process, installing a new drainage system and utility lines. The gate house itself has been moved farther into the base from FM 78 to allow for a better flow of inbound and outbound traffic.

"When everything's complete, we're going to have a state-of-the-art gate area that will provide for the security of the base and serve visitors as a welcome center to the 'Showplace of the Air Force' for many years to come," Colonel Hesterman said.

(Wingspread staff writer Bob Hieronymus contributed to this story.)

ASIST Program offers suicide awareness training

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Five percent of the Air Force population admitted to having thoughts of suicide last year, according to statistics taken by the AETC Office of the Command Surgeon.

With these statistics in mind, the Integrated Delivery System Committee is offering a two-day workshop designed to deal with the causes of suicide and how to prevent it, called the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop.

Randolph is hosting its first ASIST workshop Jan. 19-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the chapel center.

"We need to be concerned about the large numbers of people who have thoughts of suicide," said Capt. (Chaplain) Terry Fox, base chapel. "(This new program helps us) learn how to identify these people and get them the help they need."

According to IDS Committee Member Chris Morrow, the

ASIST program trains individuals on how to intervene with those individuals who might be contemplating suicide and thus decrease the risk of a person taking their own life.

"Since many people who consider suicide share their problems, having someone they can talk to is very important," he said.

Participants in the workshop include people concerned about family or friends, mental health practitioners, volunteers and supervisors. The program focuses on working in small groups and the emphasis is to learn how to recognize signs for help, how to reach out and offer support, and how to apply suicide intervention techniques. Participants learn how to help a person who is at risk to stay safe and seek further help, before it is too late, Mr. Morrow said.

For more information or to sign up, call Pat Aguon at 652-1706 or e-mail pat.aguon@randolph.af.mil. Seating is limited.

NEWS BRIEFS

AETC Commander's Call

Gen. William Looney, Air Education and Training Command commander, holds a commander's call today in the base theater. In order to seat everyone for the mandatory sessions, headquarters organizations are divided into two groups.

- 9:30 a.m.: CC, CV, DS, HO, CE, DO, DP, SV, HC, FM, SE, PA, and AFOMS.
- 1 p.m.: JA, LG, SC, SE, SG, IG, XP, RF and AFSAT.

Carpooling or walking is highly recommended. Buses are also scheduled for a pick up at Bldg. 900 and Hangar 13 at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and return from the base theater after each session.

12th CONS change of command

Lt. Col. Tracey Kop assumes command of the 12th Contracting Squadron from Lt. Col. Dwayne Sellers during a ceremony today at 8 a.m. at the enlisted club.

Targeting sexual assault for civilians

The base sexual assault program office is conducting eight one-hour sexual assault training sessions for civilians at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Jan 13.

To sign up, call 652-4386 or 4387.

Extended deployment opportunities

Air Force officials announced that officers and enlisted Airmen in almost every major career field are needed to fill U.S. Central Command Joint Task Force positions with report dates throughout calendar year 2006.

Officers should contact their assignment teams for a list of extended deployment opportunities and to indicate their interest and availability. Enlisted members can view a list of opportunities and volunteer via the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment listing Plus.

Should the Air Force not receive enough volunteers, Air Force Personnel Center officials will identify eligible non-volunteers.

For more information, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/extendedTDY-s/extendedtdy.htm.

Legal office customer service hours

The 12th Flying Training Wing Judge Advocate office, located in the Taj Mahal, announces the following customer service hours.

- Legal assistance: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Notary services and powers of attorney: during any office hours
- Legal assistance by appointment, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; scheduled one week in advance
- Walk-in legal assistance, Thursday, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

For information, call 652-6781.

- Claims office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Initial notification of damage, DD Form 1840R, during any office hours
- Filing a claim, by appointment Monday and Tuesday

For information, call 652-3110.

Electronic check processing at BX

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service now electronically processes checks. People who "float" checks could face extra charges for insufficient funds.

Monster truck to visit Jan. 13

The Air Force Recruiting Service monster truck will be on display at Randolph Jan. 13 starting at 10 a.m. in the BXtra parking lot.

Members of the Randolph community are invited to view the truck.

Air Force declares Raptor operational, ready for combat

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) – The Air Force’s most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials announced Dec. 15.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment. Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor’s proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, “If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us.”

“F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal,” General Keys said. “The Raptor’s cutting edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats.”

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between various Air Force organizations and the service’s industry partners during the past 25 years.

“The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today,” General Keys said. “Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we’re already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop JDAMs, fly against double-digit SAMs at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge.”

Designed to ensure America’s air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will



Crew chief Staff Sgt. Adam Murtishaw guides an F-22A Raptor into its parking space after a Dec. 14 mission at Langley Air Force Base, Va. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker)

ensure U.S. Joint Forces’ freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as our adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

“As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing Air Dominance for the Joint Force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots who will go to war with it, I am confident the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air,” General Keys said.

The first combat-ready Raptors currently are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing.

The current 27th FS combat deployment capability with the F-22A is a 12-ship deployable package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

Postal rates going up

The U.S. Postal Service has announced the new postal rates that take effect Sunday.

Rates	Current	New
First class letter (1 oz.)	37¢	39¢
First class letter (2 oz.)	60¢	63¢
Post card	23¢	24¢
Priority mail (1 lb.)	\$3.85	\$4.05
Express mail (1/2 lb.)	\$13.65	\$14.40
Express mail (2 lb.)	\$17.85	\$18.80

Fees and service charges

Certified mail	\$2.30	\$2.40
Delivery confirmation		
priority	45¢	50¢
1st class parcels	55¢	60¢
Return receipt		
signature	\$1.75	\$1.85
electronic	\$1.30	\$1.35
Money orders (up to \$500)	90¢	95¢

EQUAL listing available Tuesday

The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for Airmen returning from overseas – and continental United States mandatory movers for May through July – is available Tuesday.

Airmen need to work through the military personnel flight or their commander's support staff to update their preferences.

Airmen must update assignment preferences by Jan. 26. If selected, they will receive notification no later than Feb. 15, said Air Force Personnel Center officials.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements by Air Force specialty code and rank. Airmen should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the lists.

To view the lists, Airmen can go online to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and then log into the Assignment Management System, or visit the outbound assignments section of the MPF.

For more information, call 652-2320.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

DFAS releases tax statement schedule

ARLINGTON, Va. – Military service members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service began receiving their 2005 tax statements last month.

DFAS customers with myPay access can retrieve their tax statements electronically up to three weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery. MyPay is DFAS’ secure Web-based pay information system.

One of the many benefits of myPay is the ability to receive tax statements electronically, saving time and avoiding risks associated with identity theft, said DFAS officials.

MyPay is becoming the standard method of pay and tax statement delivery for people paid by DFAS, service officials added.

“Not only do our customers get their statements quicker, but more securely,” said Pat Shine, director of DFAS Military and

Civilian Pay Services. “Our customers are discovering that myPay’s encryption technology is providing the security they demand to protect their sensitive pay and personal information.”

Mr. Shine added that current myPay account holders who have forgotten their personal identification number, as well as new users can request a new PIN on the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

MyPay users who have an official pre-registered e-mail address provided by affiliated services such as Army Knowledge Online or Air Force White Pages, or who have entered a secure e-mail address in the myPay e-mail settings page can receive their new PIN via e-mail.

All others will receive their PIN via mail about 10 working days from the date of request.

Tax statements for DFAS customers are projected to be distributed by the dates in the following table:

Form/Document	Available on myPay	Mailing Dates
Retiree Annual Statement	Dec. 9	Dec. 17-31
Retiree 1099R	Dec. 16	Dec. 17-31
Annuitant Account Statement	Dec. 16	Dec. 27-31
Annuitant 1099R	Dec. 16	Dec. 17-31
VSI/SSB W-2	NA	Jan. 4-5
Active Duty W-2	Jan. 21	Jan. 24-27
Reserve W-2	Dec. 31	Jan. 4-7
Marine Corps W-2	Jan. 10	Jan. 12-16
Civilian employee W-2	Jan. 9	Jan. 10-21
Savings Dep. Program 1099INT	NA	Jan. 27
Vendor Pay 1099	NA	Jan. 28-31

CDC opens renovated playground

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Whether pushing their best friend on a swing, digging in the sandbox for hidden treasure, or pretending to look out over the base in a miniature replica of the Taj Mahal, the children of Randolph’s child development center are enjoying their new playground.

Construction of the new \$300,000 playground wrapped up last month as children broke in the new equipment in early December.

“Our old playground having been built in the early 1990s had been through a lot of wear and tear,” said Heidi Welch, family member flight chief. “The old equipment needed to be replaced. It was in constant need of repairs and touch-ups.”

The project was funded by the Air Education and Training Command commander, Gen. William Looney III.

The new playground features a variety of age appropriate climbing equipment, swings and slides. It also incorporates a variety of pieces to encourage pretend play, including a gas pump, play cars and a shoppette, Ms. Welch said.

Tabitha Booker, CDC director, said the playground designer’s knowledge and experience were key in the success of the project.

“The designer of the playground has a doctorate in early childhood education and is well renowned in the industry,” she said. “Before this project, he designed playgrounds for the Pentagon, FBI and other military installations.

“He really put a lot of thought and time into our playground, designing it around the developmental needs of the children.”

The most exciting feature of the playground, Ms. Welch said, is the miniature replica of the Taj Mahal.

“It really gives the playground a personal touch,” she said.

Ms. Booker and Ms. Welch also spoke of the importance of playgrounds at daycare centers.

“Playgrounds allow children to develop social skills as well, giving them chances to interact with other children in different settings,” said Ms. Booker.

“They bring opportunities for outdoor play and large motor development, which is crucial to the development of young children,” Ms. Welch added.



Children at the child development center ride around the new “mini Taj” recently built as part of extensive renovations to the center’s playground. (Photos by Steve White)

“With the growth of childhood obesity, encouraging children to stay active and incorporate healthy lifestyles is beneficial to their future.”

Ro-Hawk band ends year with a bang



Ro-Hawk band members practice at Randolph High School for upcoming performances. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Randolph High School Marching Band closed out another bang-up year for 2005, garnering several first place awards, earning superior rating at the regional-level and a seat at the state-level competition.

With 94 members, it is one of the largest 2A bands in Texas – ultimately competing against approximately 230 other 2A schools in the state.

“The band members work very hard,” said Dick Wilson, band director. “Schools all over the state know of the band and the quality of their performances.”

Among the band’s accomplishments last year was first place in the Hornet Marching Contest at East Central High School and first place in the Judson Rocket Marching Contest. They also received straight superior ratings at the University Interscholastic League Region XII Marching Contest, which qualified them to go to the South Texas Area Marching Contest in Sinton, Texas, where they earned a place to perform at the Texas State Marching Contest. While the team came up short in the

competition, Mr. Wilson said the students were honored just to have made it that far.

Mr. Wilson directs the band with the help of assistant band director Hector Perez.

The band performs at a variety of events, such as school football games, Fiesta San Antonio events, and city events, such as the Alamo Bowl.

Sophomore Lance Copeland has been a band member since the sixth grade.

“I’ve been in the band a long time,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

The high school band has had an amazing history over the past decade, Mr. Wilson added.

The band has received straight superior ratings the last ten years, advanced to the area marching contest every year, and advanced to the state marching contest five of those years, which is good, considering bands are only allowed to go to the state contests every other year, Mr. Wilson said.

“The tradition continues, and it takes an unbelievable amount of work to get to this level. And this past year, the band met the challenge once again,” Mr. Wilson said.

CSS takes flag football title

Team rebounds from 13-0 deficit to win in overtime against AETC/DO

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The flag football gridiron at Grater Field covers about 3,000 square feet of turf, but the two decisive plays in the base intramural championship game Dec. 20 took place on a patch of grass in the south end zone small enough to cover with the family picnic blanket.

It was in that near corner of the left side of the end zone where Stephen Rowell cradled an overtime touchdown pass from Bret Robinson.

On defense four plays later on the same spot, Rowell leaped to knock down a pass to lift the Air Education and Training Command Computer Systems Squadron to the base intramural flag football title over the AETC Directorate of Operations 19-13.

Earlier in the evening, CSS defeated DO 19-14 to give each team one loss in the double-elimination playoffs, thus forcing the deciding second game of the night.

To even get to the overtime was a feat in itself for CSS. The team trailed 13-0 midway through the first half and Robinson was completing as many passes to the opposition as he was to his teammates to that point.

After capping a five-play opening drive with a 30-yard touchdown pass from DO quarterback Darryl Brown to Lorne Gibson to take a 7-0 lead, defensive back Ken Jackson put DO back on offense when he picked off a Robinson pass and returned it to the CSS 16-yard line.

DO couldn't capitalize, and Brown's fourth-down pass fell incomplete and the ball went back to CSS.

On a third-down pass from his own 12-yard line during the next possession, Robinson was picked off by Jackson again. This time Jackson ran it in from 20 yards out to put DO up 13-0.

CSS pulled within a touchdown at 13-6 late in the half. After a 30-yard bomb to Scott McLaughlin and a 10-yard pass to Mark Carr, Robinson hit Omar Saenz on a 22-yard scoring pass.

With time running out in the half, DO came up empty on a chance to score from the four-yard line when Brown's pass fell incomplete on fourth and goal.

DO opened the second half with a



Omar Saenz of Air Education and Training Command Computer Systems Squadron reaches for the flag of AETC Directorate of Operations quarterback Darryl Brown during the flag football championships Dec. 20 at Grater Field. A relentless pass rush from Saenz and James Walejewski kept Brown scrambling much of the night and helped lead CSS to a 19-13 overtime victory and the flag football title. (Photo by Steve White)

nine-play drive that could have put the game out of reach. Brown hit Bryan Bobeck on passes of 18 and 24 yards to move the ball down to the CSS four-yard line again. Once more, the CSS defense tightened with its back to the wall and Brown's fourth-down pass was incomplete with 10 minutes remaining.

The missed scoring opportunities would prove to be the downfall for DO as the momentum shifted to CSS. The defense, with quick pass rushers Saenz and James Walejewski, kept Brown scrambling the remainder of the game.

"Our strategy was to rush some fast guys to pressure the quarterback," said McLaughlin, who played defensive back for CSS. "After our first few goal-line stands, we knew we could hold them off. We had a lot of confidence in our defense."

That confidence eventually rubbed off on the offense. With less than three minutes left in the game and facing fourth down and 10 yards to go for a first down, Robinson hit McLaughlin on a 30-yard bullet in the end zone.

The extra point tied the game, but DO still had time to move the ball for a final scoring attempt.

With the DO offense in hurry-up mode, a scrambling Brown moved the offense down the field to get his team in familiar territory inside the CSS five-yard line with 30 seconds left on the clock. Unfortunately, the goal-line offense produced familiar results and Brown's pass on fourth and goal was incomplete, and the game went into overtime.

"We had plenty of opportunities, but we were terrible converting in the red zone," said James Knight, DO coach. "We could have won easily if we scored."

In the overtime period, each team had four downs to score going in from the 20-yard-line with possessions alternating until the tie was broken.

On CSS's first possession, Robinson hit receivers on passes of six and 12 yards to face third and goal from the two-yard line. He took a quick drop and hit Rowell in the corner of the end zone

to give CSS a 19-13 lead.

Needing to score a touchdown to keep his team alive, Brown hit Dennis Peterson for a six-yard gain on DO's overtime possession. Walejewski then sacked Brown back at the 20-yard line on second down, before Brown completed a 12-yard pass to Gibson to move the ball to the eight-yard line. Rowell knocked down Brown's fourth-down pass intended for Peterson in the near corner of the end zone to seal the victory for CSS.

CSS 19 DO 14

In the first game of the finals Dec. 20, CSS beat DO 19-14 behind three touchdown passes from Robinson to Phil Goodrich, Mark Carr and Rowell.

Brown hit Peterson twice for touchdowns to pace DO.

With less than two minutes to go in the game and facing fourth down near midfield, Robinson connected with Saenz on a 33-yard bomb to ice the game and keep the ball away from the DO offense.

HAWC offers tips for fit, healthy new year

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

With the New Year here, more people are committing to the popular New Year's resolution to make more time for exercise.

For many people finding an exercise routine comes easy, but it's sticking to it that becomes the struggle.

"Having an exercise goal to shoot for is a good start in planning a new exercise routine," said Kim Houk, exercise physiologist. "Whether it's to lose 10 pounds or to participate in a marathon, any type of fitness-related goal gives people motivation and something to strive for."

Another good method is to use the "buddy system" when exercising, Ms. Houk said.

"Surrounding yourself with supportive people is a good idea," she said. "Exercising in group settings or exercising regularly with a friend can prove helpful."

If someone has been sedentary for a long time, they should start by planning on exercising during a certain time of the day, and then exercise at that time for about 10-15 minutes, three days per week, said Ms. Houk.

People should not overdo it when exercising, only do what they can, she added.

"Once a person gets in the habit of exercising, they can work on improving the habit by increasing minutes or intensity," Ms. Houk said. "What's most important is to start a routine, knowing it won't be perfect at first."

People should also change their activities and exercise routines to give them some variety, according

to the American Heart Association Web site. Exercising using several routines that are fun can make exercise more enjoyable. Music can also be a good means of keeping entertained while exercising.

Experts also say it is a good idea to keep a record of exercises and times to document fitness progress.

"Documenting activity, especially progress, such as weight loss or gain, and inch loss or gain, is helpful," Ms. Houk said. "When you reach a certain goal, you can reward yourself."

It is recommended to find a convenient place and time to work out, according to the AHA. Try to make it a habit, but be flexible. If a workout opportunity is missed, it can be worked into another day.

For more information, call 652-2300 or visit www.americanheart.org.